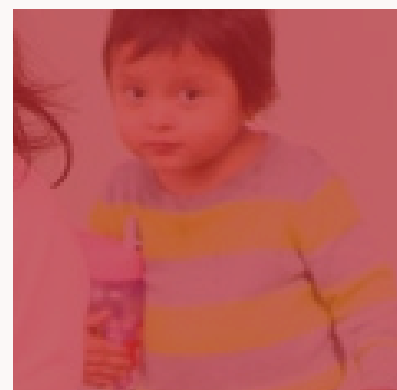
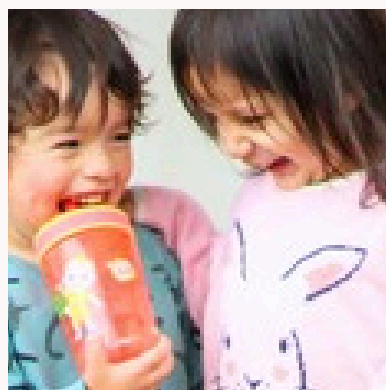
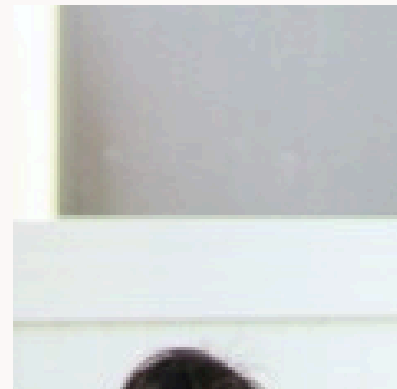


Centro de la Familia 2024-2025

# ANNUAL REPORT



**CENTRO**  
de la familia



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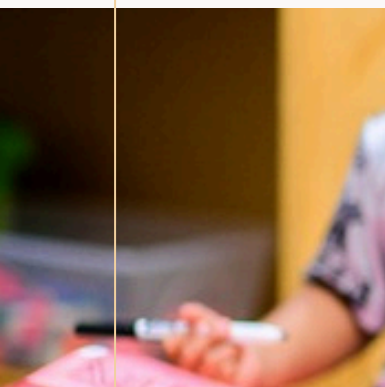
# About Us

Centro de la Familia de Utah is a nonprofit organization that promotes healthy and engaged communities by advocating for children's educational success. Working with children and families since 1975, Centro has excelled at managing early outreach and educational programs among under-served communities in both urban and rural areas.

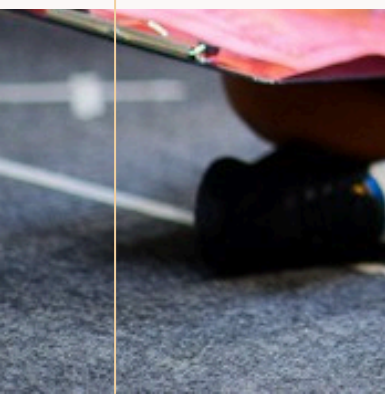
Today, Centro operates 26 Head Start centers and 5 childcare partnerships in Utah, Colorado, Nevada and Montana. Additionally, Centro manages a portfolio of outcomes-based programs for elementary, middle, and high school students, and programs for adults that provide the tools and skills necessary for self-sufficiency.



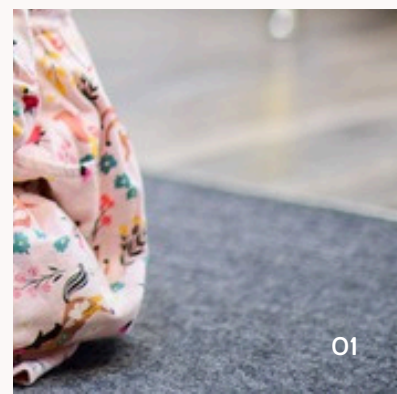
1460 Kids  
served annually



700 children  
bused to centers



1053 parent  
volunteers



# Letter from the CEO

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we reflect on the 2024–2025 program year, we are filled with gratitude and pride for all that Centro has accomplished alongside the families and communities we serve. This year was one of tremendous growth, innovation, and impact as we continued our mission of supporting children and families across multiple states.

Over the past year, Centro expanded its reach in meaningful ways. Through our Multi-State grant, we were awarded two new service areas in Winnemucca, Nevada and Billings, Montana, increasing the number of children served in that program from 186 to 269. We were also honored to receive the opportunity to serve families in Center, Colorado, further strengthening our presence in the San Luis Valley region and allowing us to create seamless support systems for local families.

We also took major steps toward the future of early childhood education in Northern Colorado. In spring 2025, Centro received the Conditional Use Permit for our future Gilcrest Migrant Head Start facility, which will eventually serve approximately 100 children through the consolidation of our Brighton and Greeley centers. This project represents our continued commitment to providing high-quality learning environments for children and families.

# Letter from the CEO

Centro was proud to be recognized nationally for the quality of our work. In August 2024, we received accreditation as a Program of Excellence from the National Head Start Association, an honor awarded to only a select number of programs nationwide. This five-year accreditation reflects the dedication, compassion, and professionalism of our staff and leadership team.

Innovation also played a key role in our progress this year. We developed Centro's own Head Start data collection and reporting system, C-Fit, which has since been presented at National Head Start conferences and recognized for its effectiveness. In addition, we developed a unique Power BI dashboard, that enables us to instantly track each child's progress across Developmental domains for all children, with a special focus on our most vulnerable children who are performing below developmental expectations for their age group.

Most importantly, our impact continues to be measured through the children and families we serve every day. Throughout the year, we maintained 100% enrollment across all three Region 8 programs and achieved 100% of our cumulative enrollment goals in both Migrant programs. Altogether, Centro served well over 1,500 center-based, full-day, full-year children throughout the year.

None of this would be possible without the unwavering support of our staff, families, community partners, and advocates. Thank you for believing in our mission and for helping us continue to create opportunities for children and families to thrive.

With gratitude,

**Gonzalo Palza**

CEO / Head Start Director



# Board of Directors

## Joshua Lakin

President, Financial Expert

## Corper James

Legal Expert

## Silvia Norman

Secretary

## Nicole Salazar-Hall

Member

## Sebastian de Freitas

Member

## Teresa Newlan

Member

## Mikael Sorensen

Member

## Gabriela Mena

Member

## Kimberly Nipple

Region 8 Policy  
Council President

## Cinthya Trejo

Region 8 Policy  
Council Vice President

## Elna Hernandez

Migrant Policy Council  
President

## Maria Ruvalcaba

Migrant Policy Council  
Vice President



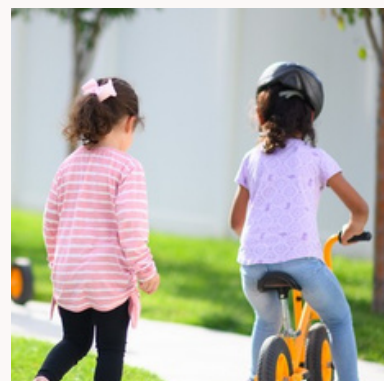
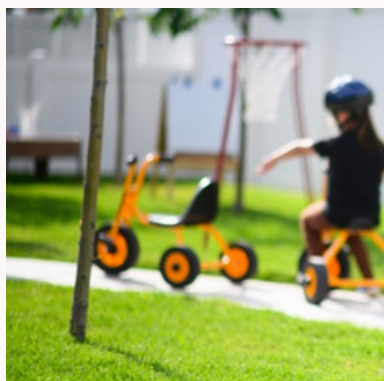
# Parent Letters

Quiero iniciar esta carta expresando mi más sincero agradecimiento por todo el apoyo, paciencia y dedicación que han brindado a mi hijo. Alejandro disfruta ir a Centro cada día y compartir con sus maestras y compañeros en el salón, si bien es cierto él solo atiende día completo los viernes a Centro, de lunes a jueves, las maestras en Centro se aseguran de que él comparta un tiempo agradable desde su llegada. Él comparte con sus compañeros, disfruta del desayuno y después se prepara para que el autobús del Distrito escolar lo lleve a otra escuela donde lo siguen apoyando con sus metas de IEP.

Alejandro disfruta tanto estar en Centro que durante la semana la espera con emoción “pink day” (viernes). También agradezco a mi FSS y DS por todo el apoyo, por la comunicación constante y por asegurarse de que estemos bien como Familia.

Nos encanta ver como Alejandro crece y aprende cada día, y lo seguro que se siente, gracias al trabajo que ustedes realizan con tanta entrega.

Sinceramente: Familia Badillo





# Parent Letters

Por medio de la presente quiero expresar mi más profundo agradecimiento por pertenecer a la familia de Centro. Ha sido una verdadera bendición en la vida de mi familia. A través de ustedes hemos conocido y experimentado cosas realmente cruciales para nuestra llegada y adaptación en los Estados Unidos.

Mis hijas han recibido apoyo invaluable, especialmente con las terapias del lenguaje y las referencias que, de no ser por Centro, no habríamos conocido. Además, nos han acompañado en momentos difíciles, brindándonos orientación, comprensión y recursos cuando más los necesitábamos.

Gracias a Centro también hemos conocido a personas maravillosas que hoy se han convertido en amigos, algo que valoramos profundamente. Las maestras y nuestra trabajadora social han sido un regalo en este camino; son, sin duda, lo mejor que nos pudo haber pasado.

Estamos sinceramente agradecidos por todo el apoyo, compromiso y dedicación que han tenido con nuestra familia.

Con gratitud,  
Blanca Juarez





# Parent Letters

I am writing to express our deep gratitude for the incredible impact Centro has had on our daughter and our family as a whole. Since enrolling in the program, our daughter has grown both academically and socially. Her vocabulary has expanded, her curiosity is constantly growing, and she surprises us daily with everything she's learned.

More than just an educational foundation, Centro has provided a safe, nurturing environment that gives us peace of mind knowing Emmy is in a great and caring place. It truly takes a village, and this school has become an essential part of ours. We wholeheartedly believe that the early academic and emotional development she is receiving here is setting her up for long-term success. Centro de la Familia is not just a school... it's a vital part of our family's daily life, and we are incredibly grateful for the care, dedication, and structure it provides. Thank you for everything!

Enriquez Manzo family

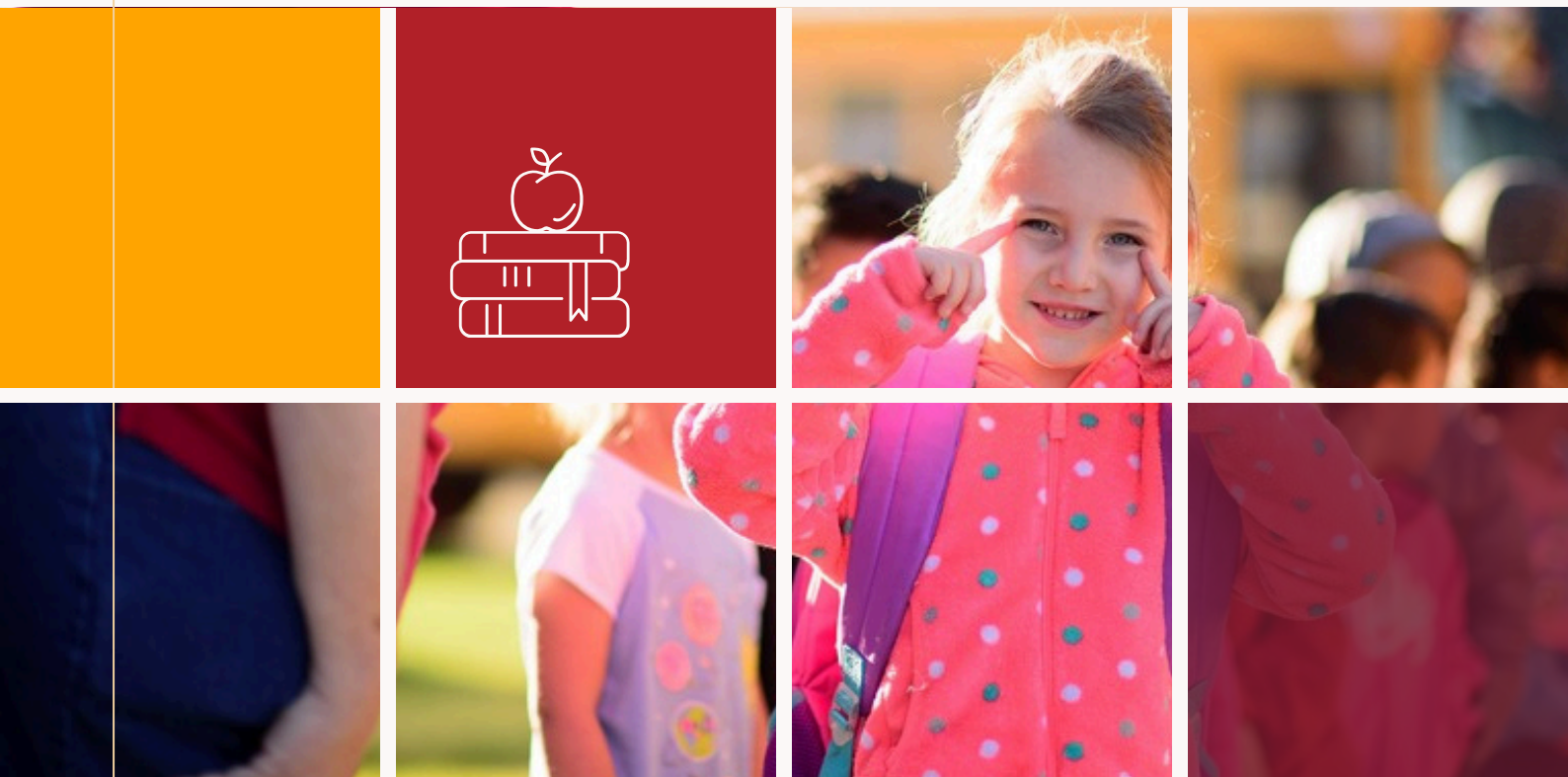




# Head Start

Head Start helps children facing the greatest barriers build a strong foundation for success in school and in life—supporting not only children, but families and communities as a whole. Established in 1965, the program has long advanced school readiness for economically disadvantaged children through comprehensive education, health, nutrition, and family support services.

Since 1991, Centro has proudly delivered Head Start services, responding to the unique needs of minority, immigrant, and low-income families. Our high-quality, full-day programs serve children from six weeks to five years old at no cost to qualifying families and feature bilingual English/Spanish classrooms. In addition to a nationally recognized curriculum led by qualified teaching staff, Centro provides daily nutritious meals and transportation services across Utah, Nevada, Montana, and select communities in Colorado. Each year, we support approximately 1,460 children and 1240 families through our Head Start programs.



# PIR Data



1240

Families Served



1406

Children Served



54

Pregnant Women  
Served



108.7%

Of funded enrollment  
slots served



74.1%

Of children who received  
dental exams



896

Average monthly  
enrollment



# Health Services

This year, Centro continued strengthening our commitment to whole-child wellness through partnerships, preventive services, and family-centered support across all four states we serve. From on-site clinics to nutrition education and expanded compliance efforts, our teams worked to ensure that every child had access to the care they need to learn, grow, and thrive.

## Expanding Access to Preventive Care

Centro's summer health clinics—offered in partnership with the University of Utah and Community Health Centers (CHC)—provided more than 300 children with comprehensive physical and dental exams between May and July 2025. These clinics played an essential role in bringing preventive care to migrant families during a season when access is often limited.

In Fall 2024, additional preventive support continued in Mesa County, Colorado through vision screenings coordinated with the Lions Club, helping identify concerns early and strengthening referral pathways.

## Supporting Healthy Smiles

Throughout the year, Centro collaborated with Valley Wide Health Center, Sunrise Health Center, and Martinez Mobile Dental to offer both preventive and restorative dental services across our Colorado locations. Children received cleanings, fluoride treatments, and timely follow-up care.

To further support oral health, a pediatric dental specialist visited Mesa County centers in October 2024, leading engaging “Tooth Fairy”-themed lessons that made dental hygiene approachable and fun for young learners.





# Health Services

## Comprehensive Nutrition Support

Nutrition services remained a key focus across programs. In Utah, a registered dietitian provided individualized guidance for children with food allergies, growth concerns, and medically necessary diets.

Across multiple states, classroom-based nutrition and wellness education continued through SNAP-Ed from September 2024 to May 2025, giving children hands-on opportunities to practice healthy habits.

The Dr. Yum program further enriched the school year with interactive lessons that encouraged children to explore fruits, vegetables, and balanced meals—reinforcing healthy choices at school and at home.

In Colorado, centers adopted a new five-week menu cycle designed to increase variety, celebrate cultural relevance, and better accommodate special diets, creating a more welcoming mealtime experience for all children.

## Program Growth and Strengthened Compliance

In Spring 2025, Centro expanded its health and nutrition services to a new location in Montana. This launch included close coordination with state and local health authorities to ensure smooth implementation and full compliance with health regulations.

To strengthen program growth and compliance related to environmental health protections, Centro partnered with the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment in 2025 to begin the planning and training phase for expanded lead screenings. Throughout the year, staff completed required training and worked closely with the State of Colorado to secure lead screening equipment for each Centro-operated site, with full implementation of the new screening protocols scheduled to begin in 2026.

Throughout the year, immunization compliance remained a priority. Centro submitted state-required reports for Utah, Colorado, and Nevada and initiated compliance efforts for the Montana program, ensuring timely follow-up and adherence to state guidelines.

## Strengthening Community Health Through Screening

Across all program sites, Centro completed thousands of health events—from vision and hearing screenings to dental checks, physical exams, and nutrition assessments. Each event was documented through the Health Events Report system, supporting timely follow-up and helping us better understand the evolving needs of the communities we serve.



# Family Services

Over the past year, Centro de la Familia partnered with families and communities to remove barriers, strengthen relationships, and create pathways to stability and opportunity. The following highlights reflect what we accomplished together through responsive services, trusted partnerships, and family-centered support.

This year, our fatherhood initiatives strengthened family leadership and community connection. In Grand Junction, a Centro fatherhood event inspired a community-led Chili Cook-off Fundraiser that raised \$400 for clothing and transportation assistance for families. Additional fatherhood celebrations held across Alamosa, Grand Junction, and Garfield County brought families together for shared meals, creative activities, and meaningful connection—reinforcing the vital role of fathers in children’s lives.

Centro continued to provide critical support during times of crisis. One Early Head Start family experiencing housing instability and addiction was connected to shelter and recovery resources through coordinated support from a Family Support Specialist, beginning their journey toward stability. In Riverside, transportation challenges that threatened a child’s attendance were resolved quickly by transferring the family to a center within walking distance, ensuring uninterrupted care.



# Family Services

Our work also helped families move toward long-term stability and opportunity. In Grand Junction, a single mother who had recently immigrated and experienced homelessness secured full-time employment—with support from Centro—while her child enrolled in the program. In Rifle, a single father rebuilding his life after homelessness enrolled his children in Early Head Start, returned to work, and later stepped into leadership as President of the Parent Committee, helping build a strong parent community.

Early intervention remained a cornerstone of our services. A routine vision screening in Riverside led to a child receiving glasses that transformed his learning experience, highlighting the lasting impact of preventive health care. At the RED Center, a grandmother caring for her young granddaughters saw them thrive after enrollment and later became Vice President of the Policy Council, reflecting the power of family engagement and leadership.

Together, these moments capture Centro de la Familia’s impact over the past year—meeting families where they are, responding to their needs, and strengthening communities so children and parents can succeed.





# Education Services

## Supporting the Whole Child

At Centro, school readiness means nurturing the whole child—academically, socially, and emotionally. We know this work is only possible through strong partnerships with families, staff, and our community. Parents remain a child’s first and most important teachers, and we continue to build their confidence in that role.

## Plazas Using Data to Drive Success

This year, our Education team strengthened its use of C-FIT data to guide instruction and measure outcomes. By reviewing and analyzing developmental data regularly, teachers plan intentional lessons and identify areas for extra support. Data meetings have become collaborative spaces where education and content-area staff work together to ensure every child’s progress is monitored and celebrated.

## Intentional Teaching and Collaboration

Through Teaching Strategies GOLD and our School Readiness Goals, we focus on three key domains:

- Social-Emotional Development
- Language and Literacy
- Mathematics

Cross-department collaboration ensures that every child’s learning experience addresses cognitive, physical, and emotional growth. Our school readiness analysis connects lesson planning, family engagement, and professional development to better serve each child.



# Education Services

## Pyramid Model Implementation

We continue to strengthen our use of the Pyramid Model, focusing on the universal and foundational tiers—nurturing relationships, quality interactions, and supportive environments. This work unites all content areas, creating consistent, emotionally supportive classrooms and ensuring an effective, responsive workforce.

## Empowering Families

Families are key partners in social-emotional development. Through new workshops and learning tools, parents are gaining strategies to support positive behavior, communication, and emotional regulation at home. These efforts help children transition to kindergarten with confidence and resilience.

## Looking Ahead

Centro remains committed to data-driven, intentional teaching and collaboration across all program areas. Together, we are creating strong foundations for lifelong learning—one child, one family, one partnership at a time.





# Community Programs

## PLAZAS COMUNITARIAS

Provides Spanish speaking adults the opportunity to complete their primary and secondary education.

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## NUEVO DIA

Serving ages 9-12. Promotes awareness and communication between youth and their parents.

---

## Colega + Abriendo Puertas

Supports parents with learning tools, children's rights awareness, and leadership skills.

## EARLY ESCALERA

College and career preparation course designed specifically for Hispanic high school Freshmen and Sophmores

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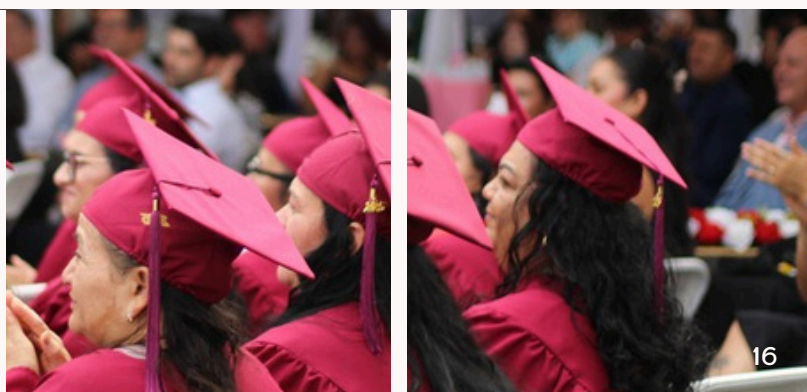
## SAFE DATES

Helps teenagers acquire the skills to develop healthy relationships and prevent risky relationship behaviors.

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## Ventanilla de Orientación Educativa

Helps teenagers acquire the skills to develop healthy relationships and prevent risky relationship behaviors.





# Community Programs

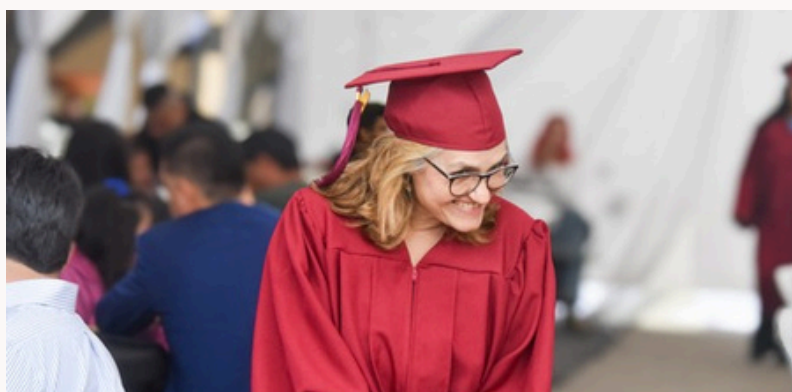
This year has been one of growth, connection, and impact. Through our programs, we've continued to empower families, youth, and individuals across Utah with education, resources, and opportunities for a brighter future.

## Nuevo Dia

During Fall 2024 and Spring 2025, more than 40 families participated in Nuevo Día. Through workshops and hands-on activities, parents and children gained valuable tools to strengthen communication, build resilience, and create stronger, healthier family bonds.

## Safe Dates

In both Fall 2024 and Fall 2025, over 30 teens took part in Safe Dates, a program designed to teach youth about healthy relationships, self-respect, and the importance of preventing dating violence. The program continues to spark meaningful conversations among teens and their families.





# Community Programs

## Colega + Abriendo Puertas

Launched in Spring 2025, Colega – Abriendo Puertas brought empowering parent education to all 11 Head Start centers across Utah. Through this program, 105 parents completed training sessions focused on leadership, advocacy, and supporting their children’s educational journey—creating a ripple effect of confidence and knowledge in our communities.

## Plazas Comunitarias

In Fall 2024, 17 adult learners proudly graduated from our Elementary and Middle School programs through Plazas Comunitarias. Each diploma represented dedication, perseverance, and the opening of new doors for lifelong learning.

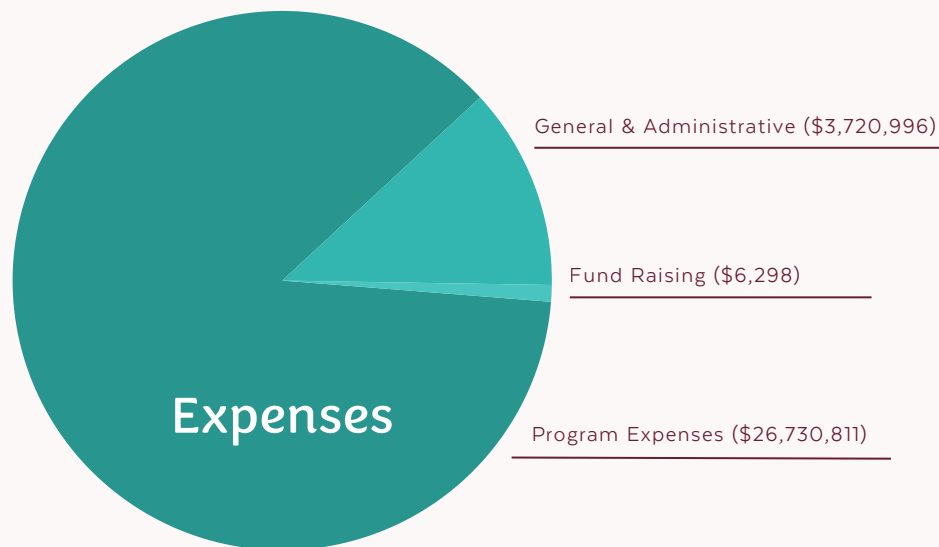
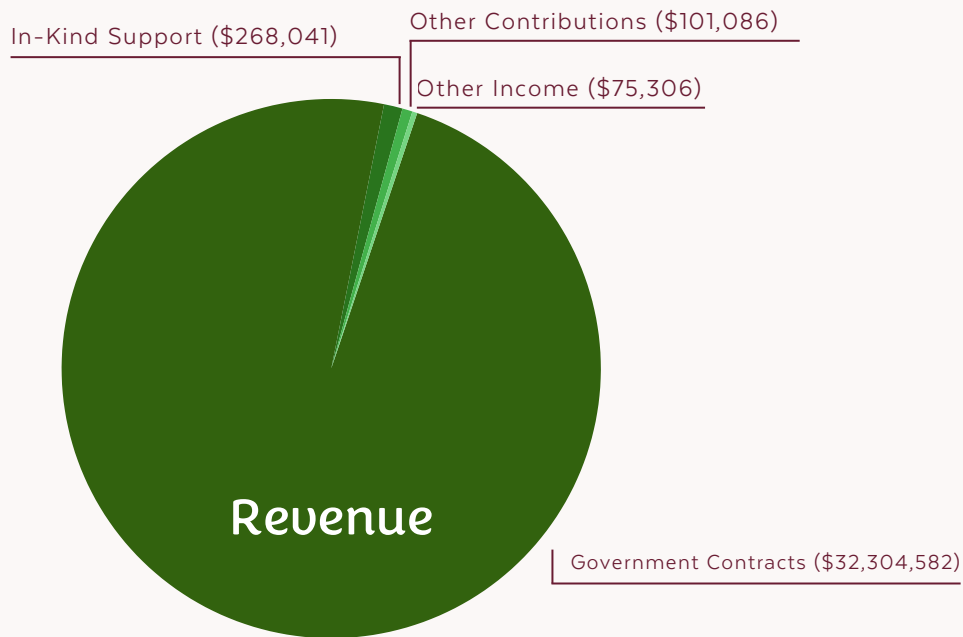
## Ventanilla de Orientación Educativa (Educational Orientation Window)

Between late 2024 and mid-2025, our team at the Mexican Consulate served 23,974 individuals through the Ventanilla de Orientación Educativa. We provided guidance on educational pathways—from GED and English programs to college options in the U.S. and Mexico—along with information on scholarships and community resources. Each interaction helped individuals take one step closer to their educational and personal goals.





# Fiscal Management



## Assets

Net Assets, beginning of year	9,599,977
Increases in Net Assets	2,290,910
Net Assets, end of year	11,890,887

The most recent review by the Office of Head Start was completed in October 2025. The Fiscal Infrastructure is "Compliant"

An independent audit by Karren, Hendrix, Stagg, Allen & Co. was completed with no findings.

# Service Areas - UT

## MAIN OFFICE

Salt Lake City  
(801) 521 - 4473

## CACHE COUNTY

Providence Center  
(435) 754 - 3730

## BOX ELDER, WEBER, & DAVIS COUNTIES

Box Elder Center  
(435) 239 - 7700  
Clinton Center  
(385) 404 - 3001

## MILLARD COUNTY

Holden Center  
(385) 423 - 4043

## UTAH & JUAB COUNTIES

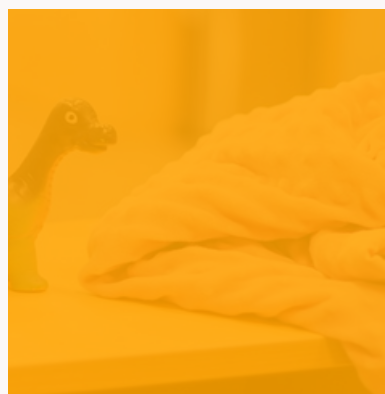
Genola Center  
(435) 404 - 3010

## SANPETE COUNTY

Centerfield Center  
(435) 529 - 8120  
Mt Pleasant Center  
(435) 580 - 5080

## SLC PARTNERSHIPS

Panda Child Care SLC  
(801) 359-1234  
Panda Child Care Taylorsville  
(801) 966-9468  
Smart Kids Taylorsville  
(801) 966-8664  
Smart Kids West Jordan  
(801) 566-3731  
Smart Kids West Valley  
(801) 967-6509



# Service Areas - CO

## **MESA COUNTY**

Main Office

(970) 822-8645

Echo Canyon Center

(970) 200-8108

Grand Junction Center

(970) 892-0759

Red Canyon Center

(970) 200-8107

Gateway Canyon Center

(970) 200-8109

Riverside Center

(970) 822-8620

## **GARFIELD COUNTY**

Rifle Center

(970) 200-8105

Parachute Center

(970) 200-8106

## **SAN LUIS VALLEY**

Sanford Center

(970) 822-8621

Alamosa Center

(970) 822-8639

Conejos Center

(970) 200-8110

## **WELD COUNTY**

Greeley Center

(775) 636-8305

## **ADAMS COUNTY**

Brighton Center

(970) 209-8100

## **MONTROSE COUNTY**

Olathe Center

(970) 200-8101

## **SAGUACHE COUNTY**

Saguache Center

(719) 759-9259



# Service Areas - NV

## CHURCHILL COUNTY

Fallon Center  
(775) 446-5060

## LYON COUNTY

Yerington Center  
(775) 636-8260

## HUMBOLDT COUNTY

Winnemucca Center  
(775) 446-5062

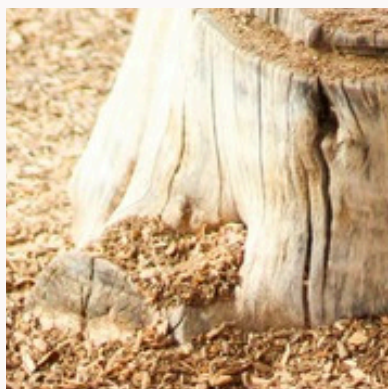
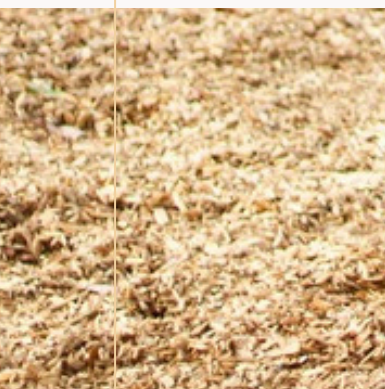
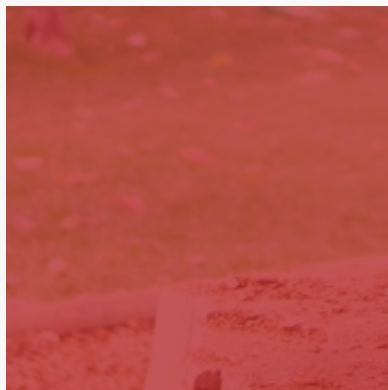
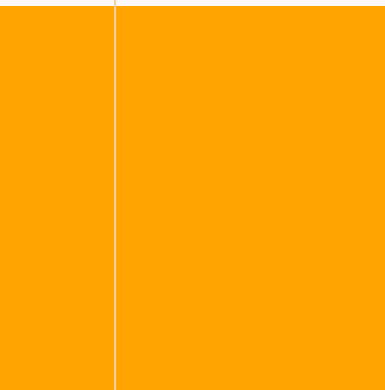


# Service Areas - MT

## YELLOWSTONE COUNTY

Billings Center

(406) 419-2335





# Thank You

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to building a better, more educated world. Your efforts are shaping the future, one child and one family at a time.

With heartfelt gratitude,

